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1.   (Three Times Amended) A system comprising:

a client computer to playback multimedia content and annotations corresponding to different temporal portions of the multimedia content; and

an annotation server, coupled to the client computer, to,

     maintain an annotation database having a plurality of annotations corresponding to the multimedia content,

     provide the plurality of annotations to the client computer for playback,

     send electronic mail messages including annotations to recipients identified by the client computer,

     analyze electronic mail messages that are received not in reply to a previous electronic mail message that included annotation data, to locate data in the electronic mail messages,

     generate new annotations that include the located data but no new annotation data, and

     add the new annotations to the annotation database.

2.   (Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a media server to manage streaming the multimedia content to the client computer, wherein streaming the multimedia content comprises the multimedia content being

communicated to the client computer on an as-needed basis rather than being pre-

delivered in its entirety prior to beginning playback of the multimedia content.

3. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a network coupling

the client computer to the annotation server.

4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the client computer is further

to:

present an electronic mail message including a multimedia content

identifier to a user,

receive a user selection of the multimedia content identifier,

access a media server to obtain the multimedia content, and

· playback the multimedia content to the user.

5. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the client

computer is further to transmit, to the media server, an identifier of a temporal

segment of the multimedia content that is after the beginning of the multimedia

content, and wherein the media server is to stream to the client computer the

multimedia content beginning with the identified temporal segment.

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13. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving data for a new annotation corresponding to a temporal range of media content;

generating an electronic mail message including, [both]

the content of the new annotation, [and]

an identifier of the media content, and

an installation option that identifies an installation program that can be used to install one or more modules allowing the content and corresponding media content to be rendered; and

forwarding the electronic mail message to a recipient identified by the data.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the generating further comprises including, in the electronic mail message, an identifier of the new annotation.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the generating further comprises including, in the electronic mail message, an identifier of the temporal range of media content.

18. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 13.

17. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding to media content, the new annotation corresponding to one of a plurality of temporal segments of the media content that is after the beginning of the media content;

presenting the electronic mail notification to a user;

receiving a user selection of an identifier, within the electronic mail notification, of the media content; and

accessing, in response to the user selection, a media server to stream, for rendering to the user, the media content beginning with the one of the plurality of temporal segments that corresponds to the new annotation.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting comprises displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user.

19. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting comprises:

displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user; and

displaying [at least one] a plurality of identifiers to the user, the [at least

one] plurality of identifiers including [one or more of]:

a content identifier that identifies the media content;

a range identifier that identifies a temporal range of the segment

corresponding to the new annotation;

an annotation identifier that identifies the new annotation; and

an annotation set identifier that identifies one or more of a plurality

of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new

annotation is part of.

20.   A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the content identifier

comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

21.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the receiving a

user selection comprises receiving a user selection of a uniform resource locator

(URL) of the media content.

22.   A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the receiving a user input

comprises receiving a user selection of an identifier of the annotation.

18, 23. (Twice Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding to media content, wherein the electronic mail notification includes a user-selectable identifier of the media content;

displaying the electronic mail notification;

receiving a user selection of the identifier; and

automatically accessing, in response to the user selection of the identifier of the media content, a media server indicated by the identifier to begin, at a point in the media content after the beginning of the media content and corresponding to the new annotation, streaming the media content for presentation to the user.

24. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23, wherein the user-selectable identifier comprises a uniform resource locator (URL) that identifies a server and a location at the server where the media content is located.

25. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:

an interface module to receive data regarding a new annotation corresponding to media content;

a module to generate an electronic mail message regarding the new annotation, the electronic mail message including,

the new annotation content,

a user-selectable link to the media content, wherein the link includes an identifier of the media content to which the new annotation corresponds, and an identifier of a temporal range of the media content that the new annotation content is associated with, wherein the temporal range corresponds to a location of the media content that is after the beginning of

the media content and at which rendering of the media content should begin in response to selection of the link in the electronic mail message.

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27. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the electronic mail message further includes a unique identifier of the new annotation.

28. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the electronic mail message further includes an identifier of one or more of a plurality of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new annotation is associated with.

29. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the system comprises an annotation server computer.

30. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the system comprises a client computer and wherein the interface module comprises a user interface.

31. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail notification of an annotation corresponding to media content;

replying to the electronic mail notification to generate a new annotation corresponding to the media content;

including, in the reply, an identifier of one or more annotation sets of a plurality of annotation sets that the new annotation is associated with, wherein the annotation sets correspond to categories for annotations; and

displaying a default recipient, corresponding to the identified one or more annotation sets, that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the replying includes:

obtaining, from the electronic mail notification, an identifier of the annotation; and

including the identifier of the annotation in the reply.

35. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail thread including a plurality of electronic mail messages;

creating, after the plurality of electronic mail messages have been included in the electronic mail thread, a plurality of annotations from the plurality of electronic mail messages in the electronic mail thread; and

adding the plurality of annotations to an annotation database.

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35. A method as recited in claim 33, wherein:

the creating comprises generating, for each of the plurality of electronic mail messages, an annotation; and

the adding comprises adding each of the generated annotations to the annotation database.

36. A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising locating, in the electronic mail thread, an identifier of media content that the annotation corresponds to.

37. (Three Times Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform. functions including:

receiving an electronic mail message that is not in reply to a previous electronic mail message;

locating data in the received electronic mail message;

generating a new annotation from the located data in the electronic mail message, wherein the new annotation includes the located data but no new annotation data; and

adding the new annotation to an annotation store.

38.   One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

creating a new annotation based on the extracted annotation content and the annotation identification information; and

adding the new annotation to an annotation database.

39.   (Three Times Amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37, wherein the located data comprises:

an identifier of media content to which the annotation content corresponds and of a temporal segment, corresponding to the annotation content, of the media content; and

an identifier of an annotation set that a new annotation including the extracted annotation content is to be part of, wherein the annotation set is one of a plurality of annotation sets corresponding to categories for annotations.

40.   (New) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the installation option comprises a user-selectable link that identifies the installation program.

(Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message including data corresponding to media content that is not included in the electronic mail message;

locating the data in the electronic mail message;

generating, after locating the data, a new annotation corresponding to the media content, wherein the new annotation includes,

an author field including data identifying a sender of the electronic mail message as an author of the new annotation,

a creation time field including data identifying the time at which the new annotation is generated,

a title field including data identifying a title of the new annotation,

a content field including the located data but no new annotation data, and

a media content identifier field including data identifying the media content to which the new annotation corresponds.

42.   (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each generated new annotation includes:

an author field including data identifying an author of the new annotation,

a creation time field including data identifying the time at which the new annotation is generated,

a title field including data identifying a title of the new annotation,

a content field including the located data, and

a media content identifier field including data identifying the multimedia content to which the new annotation corresponds.